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TRAINING INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN COMMUNICATIONS

K. G. Grachev, Dir
 Moscow Poly Sch of Com imeni Podbel'ski

The Moscow Polytechnic School of Communications imeni Podbel'ski is the largest educational institution of the Ministry of Communications. The total student enrollment exceeds 2,000.

In 1946, the school gave the communications industry 314 engineers. Many communications establishments, particularly in eastern and western regions of the country, replenished their staffs with a significant number of young specialists, graduates of the polytechnic school.

Graduating after 3 - 4 years of study, they possess knowledge in all branches of the engineering and economics of communications, as necessary for practical work. But it is fully understandable that during their first few days at their appointed posts they cannot work independently as engineers. Some time is necessary for the young engineers to become familiar with the servicing of the working apparatus and the economics of their establishment.

The supervisors of the management and communications establishment are duty-bound to shorten this period as much as possible. It is necessary to assign the young specialists to experienced workers, watch their progress, give them help, and guarantee them the necessary living conditions. This will give the young engineers reasons to like their profession and they will become valued workers.

The Polytechnic School has an adequate number of qualified instructors. Of 133 instructors, 75, i.e., 56 per cent, have a record of over 10 years of pedagogical work. Instructors N. N. Rozanov, A. I. Moskvin, K. I. Samarin, E. M. Germanov, Ya. E. Frid, A. S. Tarasov, V. M. Vasul'yev, and M.V. Amalitskiy have worked in the school from its beginning in 1919.

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Great care is given to teaching methods. All the instructors are assigned, according to their specialties, to "course" committees. At the meetings of these committees, courses and methods of instruction are discussed, reports on theory are read, and problems of methods and aids for the instructors are settled, etc.

In the past semester a great amount of work was completed by the mathematics course committee (Ya. G. Shul'man, chairman). Methods reports were heard and discussed on the subjects "Introductory Solid Geometry," and "Logarithms." A mathematics club with a membership of 35 was organized. The head of the club is instructor Comrade Bozhkov. Club members publish a mathematics newspaper.

The economics course committee prepared a course, "The Analysis of the Economic Activity of Communications Establishments."

It is necessary to recognize as a deficiency the lack of one methodical plan for all communications technicians. Such a plan (by special instructions) would concentrate the attention of the engineers on problems of the greatest importance. The collective work of all the specialists of the Polytechnic School makes it possible for the Ministry to group the experiences of educational institutions and make the correct decisions for the improvement of the training by special instruction.

The Komsomol organization of the school numbers about 1,000 members. The activity of the Komsomol and the trade-union organization has exerted an important influence on the rapid completion of the academic year.

According to the conclusions of the qualifying commission receiving the state examinations, our graduates have good theoretical training, but are not yet adequately trained for the practical servicing of apparatus.

The lack of a laboratory does not permit the school at present to set up a program for utilization of apparatus, and organize technical clubs. For the thorough improvement of the training of specialists, the school must have its own buildings and its own adequately-powered laboratory. The Ministry of Communications should note this vital problem.

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